

# FEDERATION NEWS SHEET

Monthly Bulletin of the World's Student Christian Federation

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Issued from 13 rue Calvin, Geneva, Switzerland

## Note to Editors of National Student Christian Movement Periodicals:

This information service is especially prepared for National S. C. M. publications. Please make use of it for the education of our membership in Federation matters. Credit notices are not required.

## Headquarters Notes

It is good news that *K. H. Ting* of China has joined the staff of the W.S.C.F. A Student Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in Shanghai during the war, he served on the staff of the Canadian S.C.M. during the year 1946-47. Last summer he represented the Federation at the Whitby meeting of the International Missionary Council, and this summer he will chair the Conference on Missions sponsored by the W.S.C.F. and the I.M.C. Mrs. Ting made a special place for herself at Oslo and Lundsberg last summer.

*Winburn Thomas* has arrived in Shanghai via the Philippines and Hong Kong. *M. M. Thomas* has been in Ceylon and is hoping to go to China. *John Coleman* is in Australia and returns to Europe at the end of June. *Robert Mackie* has been in Hungary, and *Marie-Jeanne de Haller* in Austria, during May.

## The Federation Holiday Chalet

Names are coming in well from the national movements for the Federation Conferences in Europe. Late-comers must be quick! But there are still a good many countries not represented on the lists for the Chalet at Les Marécottes, Valais, Switzerland, and room to spare. Preference will always be shown to those who are in need of recuperation, but many members of the Federation, who are visiting Europe this summer might still find it possible to spend a few days in this ideal centre for getting to know the Alps and our world-wide Christian fellowship. Act promptly!

## Great Britain and Germany

### THE RETURN OF THE PRISONERS-OF-WAR

Three letters:

#### I

For our own sakes we are very sorry to report that the branches of the Student Christian Movement of Great Britain and Ireland in Norton prisoner-of-war Camp and Camp No. 18 have been dissolved because all members have returned to Germany.

You would, I think, be deeply impressed if you could appreciate the sense of loss which our Movement sustains at the news, but in contrast we are profoundly grateful that our friends should have the opportunity to return home to their own land and their own families, and we envy the Student Christian Movement in Germany that it can count upon the spiritual leadership and human qualities of these men who have helped us so greatly. May we just express our gratitude to the German Movement for lending them to us and tell you of the great richness that we have found in their company.

I know I am speaking for the whole Movement when I say that they have forged a link between our two Movements which will not easily be broken.

Yours sincerely,

ALAN R. BOOTH  
General Secretary S.C.M.  
of Great Britain and Ireland

#### II

May I take this opportunity of our conclusion-meeting of the camp's branch in Featherstone Park to send to you our deepest reverences, our very honest thankfulness and our best wishes for your movement and for yourself.

During this last meeting we brought just into remembrance all our deep impressions, our knowledge and the meaning of personal contact we have got during conferences, common studies and discussions.

It is a rich "spiritual luggage" which we shall take with us home. Just to show you that we are thinking about you and many friends in different branches will be the meaning of this small letter signed by the "last Featherstonians".

#### III

Dear Friends,

Some weeks only, and the time of our being "strangers and sojourners" will finally be past and we shall have returned to "our country and to our kindred". Even though we do not — unlike the patriarch Jacob — return rich in asses, oxen, flocks, servants and wives, we as well are rich in experiences and hopes. What enables us to say so is, to a large extent, the fellowship that connected us with you, your kindness and your help. For that we are grateful to you...

I know there have been several attempts to bring our young German generation back to what is called a proper and ordinary way of life. In general, they were grouped round the word "Re-education". May I say that I never heard this word when I was together with you, but I heard another word: Forgiveness. Re-education always meant new force, influence to us; forgiveness, however, originated by Christian love, by agape, meant freedom. And, as some of you talked to us of a theology of forgiveness, I may say here, you did not only talk of, but you made us experience, this theology of forgiveness. For that we are grateful to you.

We shall return to our country. We cannot judge what will await us there. We know, however, that we leave a country where we have met Christians and friends. Where there are men and women believing in the same Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord, reading the same Bible, our Bible, and listening to the same word, the word of our God. This makes us hope.



And if I may once more ask you for something, as we so often did, then it is this: Do not forget us and do pray for us, as we shall not forget you and shall pray for you.

## New Zealand

*John Coleman writes:*

There is lots of life in the New Zealand Movement. I have been struck by what must be a unique aspect of it, namely, an S.C.M. Branch among the students in a Correspondence School. They receive study material and questions and send in their answers which are commented upon and returned to them. Also the Headquarters has a marvellous scrap book of Federation personalities and events with a separate page devoted to each country.

The S.C.M. in Otago University College has a very good stunt which consists of an excellent large relief map of the world to which they pin excerpts from the News Sheet attaching them to the unit referred to. They also have tried to mark on the map all the local units of the Federation. It would be an excellent idea to have such a map at Geneva.

The Chaplain in Victoria University College, Wellington, Martin Sullivan, is doing a magnificent job and not long ago led a groupe of 25 students to a town called Wanganui where they conducted a sort of Mission to the Parish; this was very successful and is having wide repercussions in the Movement.

*From a letter from New Zealand:*

John Coleman found us here in New Zealand feeling very much a corner of the world; the strife and intensity of feeling, which reach us frozen into print, hardly affects us. We try to realise, but we have no goad of necessity. He helped us to see beyond our isolation to fellow movements the world over. And he also pointed out something that we, small New Zealand, had not perhaps thought of before. We are one of the very few peoples unhurt by war. We have a social set-up further advanced than most, or possibly any, in the direction in which, for better or worse, society is trending throughout the world, and it is we who can render the world the service of trying new forms and doing new thinking, pioneering in that realm. It gives us something positive to catch on to and shows us that, few and small as we are, we are of service to our fellows. This visit has been to us a breath of the larger world, and we are surprised how much it is like our own; students everywhere seem to be facing the same problems, and they seem as human and real as our own. So we look forward to welcoming future visitors.

## The Netherlands

*From a letter of Koos Dirkse:*

After the summer holidays we got definite news that Woudschoten would be at our disposition by October 1st. October 4-5 we had our first conference there with members of national and local executive committees for spiritual and technical preparation of the new term. October 24-27 we held a Bible-training conference (during which we had the opening ceremony which John Coleman attended) for leaders of our Bible study groups, about 120 boys and girls. This meant the start of the Bible study in the local groups on outlines edited by us on St. Mark and the Epistle to the Philippians. Locally the leaders are trained by student pastors. Nominally about 1000 of our members participate in the Bible study, in some local groups however it turns out to be rather difficult to keep all participants to be faithful. *En principe* all groups are open ones, non-members are invited to

participate. In reality only a small number of "outsiders" do so. Methods differ locally. At Leyden every group study is followed up by a thorough explanation in the University by Prof. Miskotte (theol. prof.) which draws many outsiders. We are grateful for things as they are, but not content and are thinking of possibilities to improve quality and draw in larger numbers of students (all groups are small on purpose: 8-10 students)...

## Japan

*From a report by Bengt Hoffman:*

I have already mentioned a sort of practical nihilism which is more an attitude than a thought-out system. It is a result of frustration. The students are suspicious of ideologies, democratic ideologies included, both in their American and Russian form. The simple identification of Christianity with American democracy on the part of some policy-making occupation people does not go down very well with these students. They are afraid of pledging complete allegiance to an ideology with immediate political implications. They unconsciously fear to topple over again spiritually and mentally. The occupation in Japan is probably the most illumined, generous and successful occupation in history. But it will take several years before the occupation will be able to break through the general skepticism and suspicion of frustrated students. I want to point out that this phenomenon is not necessarily directed against anyone. The students, although they know little about other contemporary occupations, have realised enough of the nature of the Japanese occupations of the past, to appreciate their present freedom of thought and speech...

Christian ideas and activities form without any doubt the most important contribution to Japanese student thinking today. That is true also numerically: nearly 10,000 high school, college, and university students are members of the Japanese Student Christian Movement (known as the Student Department of the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.). That means: 2 % of the total student population of Japan from high school and up, takes part in Christian organisational activities of some kind. A recent poll claims that nearly 70 % of the university students declare that among the religions of Japan they are "most interested in Christianity". With due allowance given to the possibility that this interest is probably caused by unconscious opportunism with many, the fact still remains that Christian thought attracts attention.

## Burma

*Report of Student Summer Camp in Burma  
by Margaret Gaudoin*

Here was the new Burma, newly freed from the bonds of foreign domination and already overwhelmed with grave responsibilities and a multitude of problems.

By the placid waters of the Kokine Lakes in Rangoon at the end of March this year, a handful of Christian university students met at a summer camp to sort it all out. What was the real issue? What was the ultimate source of authority? What was the worth of human life? What was the ultimate answer to moral evil? What could we do for Burma and how?

There was a spirit of urgency throughout the session. The country was seething with strikes and unrest. Millions were bewildered, wondering what was going to happen. Few understood the basic issues involved. Why did men go to war with each other? Was it the lust for wealth and power? Was it a difference of opinion on the basic issues of life?

You can imagine the impact of these questions on young minds heavy with the knowledge that on us



rested much of the responsibility for the future of our beloved country.

Politically, at the end of March, the country was facing a vital decision. The Minister, Thakin Nu, had to reconcile his deep desire for unity in the country with the need to base this unity on a true and firm ideological foundation. Was it to be a unity of regimentation and the rule of force or was it to be a unity of freedom, free decision and gradual evolution? Many felt that in the hands of this one man lay a burden almost too heavy to bear.

Our faith in him was more than justified when on that fateful Easter morning, he spoke his mind to the nation, laying before them this simple issue and declaring himself on the side of democracy and constitutional method. Earlier, he had drawn two circles, the circle of force and violence and the circle of democratic method. He said: "I have chosen my circle. I choose the circle of Democracy. It is for each of you to make your own choice".

The many races of Burma gathered at the camp looked at each other and said: "Here is something worth working for. Here is a lead worth following".

The camp went on — the community singing by the camp-fires, the swimming and games, the fun and jokes. Underneath it all was the feeling that we were on the right side, the side of the fence we wanted to be on and that mercifully, we were one with our leaders. We felt that the contribution of Christian youth in this predominantly Buddhist country would be welcome. There would be tolerance and generosity and the future still held a bright gleam of hope.

### Cuba

*From Ondina Maristany, Secretary of the Association of Evangelical Students :*

We are planning to establish a Home for University Students of the different evangelical denominations that are studying in the University of Havana and up to now have had to live by themselves in different boarding houses. We feel that by doing this many of our main purposes will be accomplished by keeping the students together and making it easier for them to hold their meetings and to have a wider interchange of religious activities.

## WORLD STUDENT RELIEF

### Poland: Progress in the Battle against TB

The following is an extract from a letter dated March 29th from Philip Zealey, W.S.R. delegate in Poland. W.S.R. was able to supply special "glossy" paper for a publication by Dr. Jan Prenczyn on "Clinical Study of Lung Tuberculosis" published by the Medical Circle of Cracow University. This long awaited textbook is now available to Polish medical students at a price much lower than would have been possible without W.S.R.'s help.

Philip Zealey has been very interested in supporting the creation of "half-sanatoria" for tubercular students in Polish universities. These are dormitories where students can live under close medical supervision and away from their healthy colleagues while continuing their studies. The W.S.R. Executive voted to allocate 20,000 Swiss francs (\$5,000) to the projected "half-sanatorium" at Lodz. He writes:

"The paper for the Kolo Medykow now forms the illustrated section of a text-book on Chest Tuberculosis which is now published and on sale. There is acknowledgment to W.S.R. in the foreword. In exchange for this help Kolo Medykow will make W.S.R.

It will be of great help to us if you could kindly send us any information, pamphlets and literature on the activities of your organization. We think that we may apply in our community many of the ideas already tested successfully in other countries.

### Hungary

*Robert Mackie writes :*

I had the privilege of spending Whitsuntide in Budapest and Debrecen. From early morning till late at night I was meeting student groups and individual friends. The M.E.K.D.S.Z. (S.C.M., formerly *Pro Christo*), the *Soli Deo Gloria* (the Reformed Church movement) and the Lutheran Student Group provide a fascinating variety of approaches to Christian witness in the university. They are in touch with very considerable numbers of Christian students and make their impact felt in general student life. I have seldom been in a country where there was such opportunity of contact between Christians and non-Christians through the "college", or hostel, system and such keenness on the part of younger leaders. There are sharp differences as regards message and method, but fine mutual respect at the active student level. A joint Committee has been reconstituted and I replied to a request for the prayer of all the national movements with the assurance that Hungarian students, who had not been visited by a W.S.C.F. secretary since 1939, had certainly not been forgotten by their fellow members of the Federation.

### Czechoslovakia

The Akademicka Y.M.C.A. held its customary Whitsuntide Conference and a large group of students with a few older friends were present. There were excellent studies and discussions on the central issues of the Christian faith. At the camp site new huts were opened in memory of two former leaders, Jaroslav Simsa and Jaroslav Valenta, who were killed in Nazi concentration camps. An unforgettable memory was an evening round the open fire in the Simsa hut in which a new generation took up the fine traditions of the past.

a donation of 150,000 zl. The gift of 100,000 zl. from the Institute of Pedagogic Psychology I gave to Bratnia Pomoc in Cracow to buy further equipment for the half-sanatorium.

"The American Y.W.C.A. have now promised to provide money or equipment for half-sanatoria in Poland as a result of our report on "Tuberculosis in Poland" and are now waiting for a list of needed equipment. I hope to direct this help to Lodz. The promise of 20,000 Swiss francs for the Lodz half-sanatorium has been of quite significant importance and this news was broadcast on the Polish Radio.

"Work on the Cracow half-sanatorium proceeds and it should be open in a month or so. Beds have been bought with the money provided and the "Don Suisse" gift of bedding has now been delivered. They still need other things but I am waiting for the list and think we have good chances of getting further help.

"In this field I am very satisfied with the progress we have been able to make, for it is not consumable relief but a positive contribution towards solving Poland's greatest health problem as well as being something which will be available for succeeding generations of students."



## Indonesia

*From a letter of the Chairman of the provisional committee of I.S.S. in Indonesia :*

The Republican University has been partially disorganised for many months. Following the Renville agreement it will be possible to demobilise the students so that they may return to the university, and I hope that this demobilisation will take place next month. Then the university can begin again. In Djakarta only the medical faculty is organised... I have been able to secure a monthly support amounting to 1,500 guilders a month for the total student community of 179 men. The other faculties are far from being organised, because the students must earn their own living. Many of them are working in offices, shops, repairing bicycles etc. Only a few of them can attend lectures.

Nevertheless, despite political and economic difficulties the medical faculty has submitted twenty students to examinations in the month of January and the beginning of February. The results are not so favorable as they might be. This must be ascribed to the lack of study materials, especially books and instruments. About clothes, food and other materials we do not care. Though our clothes and food are not perfect, we can bear these difficulties easily, because we are living in a tropical climate. So please send our students your help, as far as the allocation to Indonesia permits, in the form of *books and instruments*. That will be most effective.

## Famine Situation in Bulgaria

Malcolm Adiseshiah reported to the Standing Committee that an emergency food shortage existed in Bulgaria, which he visited in March, and that students were facing as difficult a situation as the one existing in Rumania last year. The Standing Committee recommended that the General Secretary approach the Danish Red Cross, the Don Suisse, and any other bodies which might be able to aid Bulgarian students with food.

It was also recommended that, in view of the radical change in needs since the decisions of the summer executive, the sanatorium equipment sent to Bulgaria last fall as the minimum guaranteed project should be assumed in part by the T.B. budget, thus freeing 10,000 francs for the purchase of emergency food supplies for Bulgarian students. If this food could reach Bulgaria in June, it would raise the present 900-1000 calorie student diet during the examination period when students particularly need extra energy.

## Czechoslovak Refugee Students

The Standing Committee took note of the fact that a group of students from Czechoslovakia had now been added to the mass of refugee and D.P. students in Germany and elsewhere, and regretted that the very small allocation available in the W.S.R. budget made it impossible to make any special provision for this recently arrived group.

At the same time it expressed its willingness to administer, on the basis of W.S.R. principles, any funds which might be raised specially for this group of students without affecting the funds raised for the total programme of W.S.R.

The Committee took the occasion of reminding the total fund-raising constituencies of the appalling situation of thousands of long standing refugee and D.P. students in Europe for whom W.S.R. had been able as yet to do so little because of its total commitments.

## Scandinavian Committees Plan Student Relief Activities

On March 6th and 7th, 1948, the Scandinavian committees of I.S.S./W.S.R. met in Copenhagen to discuss their work on behalf of students abroad and to plan increased coordination of their activities. The following is a brief summary of the discussions.

The Finnish delegate, Miss Turkia, said that Finland which in the past has received considerable help from W.S.R. is today able to make its own contribution to other countries. Thus paper has been sent to Poland and Hungary, and the Finnish Committee hopes to be able to increase these shipments and stretch them to include Germany as well. Mr. Wefring reported that Norway is planning to send stencils for mimeographing to Poland. (The Norwegian Committee has already sent 50,000 vitamin pills to Poland, and has arranged for individual food parcels to be sent from Norwegian donors to Polish students.) Shoes and clothing will be sent to those countries where the needs for this are greatest, said Mr. Jaks-Ilg of the Swedish Committee, and Mr. Wolontis added that the Swedish I.S.S. and N.U.S. will try to procure places for Finnish and Polish students at Swedish sanatoria. In a discussion of the T.B. problem, the importance of coordination in this field among the Scandinavian countries was stressed and it was suggested that the Swedish and Danish Red Cross might be asked to co-operate with the Scandinavian Committees on this point.

## FEDERATION SUMMER CONFERENCES

*My mind goes back... so this is to let you know*

One reader writes :

"My mind goes back to the missionary conference at Basle in 1935, which I attended as a very newly-fledged Christian. To it I owe almost more than I can tell — an introduction to continental theology that changed my whole outlook, a vision of the world-wide Church as a tremendous reality, a living demonstration of what the ecumenical approach means, re-inforcement for my own most immature faith, and a passionate zeal for my local S.C.M. branch. I sincerely hope that this year's conference can do for many members at least as much as Basle did for me. So this is to let you know that among the prayers offered for the conference and all who are organising it will be mine."

May those who are organising, and those who will be leading the World Christian Youth Commission (July 12-20), the Conference on The University in a Technological Age (July 27-August 2), the Missionary

Conference on The Growing Church (August 5-16), the Bible Study Training Course (August 14-30), the Conference for Theological Students (September 7-13) and the Federation Holiday Chalet (July, August and September) *rely upon your prayers ?*

## Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, who on the night of thy Passion didst pray to thy Father that all those who believe in him through thee might be perfected into one; we pray thee to pour thy spirit upon the students of all nations, that they may consecrate themselves to thy service, even as thou for their sakes didst consecrate thyself; and so, being joined together by their common faith and obedience, they may come more perfectly to love and understand one another that the world may know that thou hast been sent by the Father to be the Saviour and Lord of all men; who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.